

## Moroni Bessendorfer Wins Award

Moroni Bessendorfer, principal of Midway School, was recently chosen to be the recipient of the Outstanding Principal award for exceptional contributions to education. Each year one superintendent, one principal, and one teacher, is selected by the State PTA Board from nominations submitted by local PTA units or councils throughout the state to receive the Outstanding Contribution to Education award within that person's field of endeavor. The Principal's award was presented to Mr. Bessendorfer at the Educator's Banquet during the State PTA Convention in Orem, Friday, May 1.

Mr. Bessendorfer ("Mr. B") has been the principal of Midway School for 22 years, an educator for 32. During that time he has demonstrated strong leadership characteristics, thus earning the respect and cooperation of faculty, parents, and students. "Mr. B" has shown himself to be resourceful, innovative, progressive, and hard-working. His positive approach to problem-solving combined with his ability to engender a feeling of cohesiveness among faculty members and parents has earned him

the respect of all with whom he works.

Mr. Bessendorfer's contributions are varied. "Mr. B" personally has contributed much to Midway School in terms of construction of walls, cabinets, playground equipment, and the playground itself. The "Outdoor Classroom" in which students are able to study the natural sciences was his idea. Developed under the direction of Mr. Bessendorfer, the Midway School library has been recognized by the Utah State Board of Education as one of the outstanding libraries in the state.

Responding to projections of large enrollment growth combined with serious financial constraints in the Wasatch School District, Mr. Bessendorfer worked with parents, teachers and students to implement the modified split session program the school is now using. A progressive and positive approach combined with thorough planning and much hard work made this program successful.

The Outstanding Principal award is well-deserved by Mr. Bessendorfer, earned over years of dedication to education and to

the people, students, and faculty of Midway. Mr. Bessendorfer is retiring this year, leaving a notable legacy for students and faculty yet to come to Midway School.



Moroni Bessendorfer









# ATTEWELL WOOTTON AND CYNTHIA JANE JEWETT WOOTTON



Attewell Wootton, son of John Wootton and Ann Turner, born December 26, 1839, in Tunstall, Staffordshire, England. Married Cynthia Jane Jewett January 9, 1862. Died November 1, 1912.

Cynthia Jane Jewett Wootton, daughter of Samuel Jewett and Sophia Lance. Born November 26, 1844, in Morgan County, Ohio. Died January 7, 1933, Salt Lake City.

December 26, 1839, Attewell's father and mother embraced the gospel in England and came to Nauvoo by way of New Orleans in 1842, bringing with them two small sons, Attewall and John.

His father, in the struggle for a livelihood, in a new country engaged in tile and brick making. Becoming overheated in his work he took cold, developed pneumonia and died in 1845, leaving his widow and two small sons. Two years later she met and married Edward Robinson a widower with a large family. In 1849 they came to Utah with the Ezra Benson Company and settled in American Fork.

Attewall proved very studious and when but a small boy he read the Book of Mormon through and received a book from his mother as a reward. He attended school for a few months each year and soon excelled the other pupils. After three terms, his teacher, Eugene Henroid, suggested he become a teacher. His first teaching was at night school for those who were unable to attend during the day. It was here also that romance entered his life, for one of his students was Cynthia J. Jewett, who became his wife. Thus began his life as a teacher.

687

Shortly after his marriage, his step-father decided to drive his cattle up Provo Canyon into Heber Valley and Attewall was placed in charge. They made their way slowly and camped under a grove of cottonwood trees which later became the B. M. Smith farm.

The next year Attewall took his wife and small son Attewall, Jr., into the valley. He had not been there long when the Black Hawk War broke out and they were constantly harassed by Indians driving off their cattle. When the Indian trouble began they moved together at Fort Midway.

The first year after merging a school was started and Attewall was placed in charge. Most of his pay was in produce. His term of service began about 1859 and extended to 1910 a period of fifty-one years. However from 1899 through 1900 were spent in Great Britain as a missionary. Here, he was Assistant Editor of the Millennial Star. In these old copies are to be found many of his poems and fine editorials.

His length of service to Wasatch County Schools has never been surpassed. For twenty-five years, he was County Superintendent of schools. When consolidation was in the distant future this far-sighted educator recognized the merits of such a plan.

Among the results of his life's work was the influence it had upon his family, seven sons and two daughters. All of his sons were teachers and two followed his foot steps and made it their life's work.

In recognition of his ability and the merits of his philosophy he was offered a position in the school of Education at the University of Utah. When the offer came he considered it sincerely and at this time Professor William Stewart attempted to persuade him to accept. He declined the honor, his reason being because he felt he could be of greater service to his community and it was his desire to rear his children in a small community where there was farm work in the summer.

His service to the public was outstanding, but the service he rendered to his church was dear to his heart and at the time of his death November 1, 1912, he was a patriarch in the Wasatch Stake.

Cynthia Jane's father was a sea captain, and while she was still a baby he was lost at sea. Her mother was converted to the Church and came to Utah in 1849.

They settled in American Fork and her mother, Sophia, married Hyrum Dayton.

Cynthia lost her mother when she was 14 years old and lived with her grandmother, Mary Alore Lance.

During the trip across the plains, Cynthia was only five years old, but walked many miles each day and helped to gather buffalo chips for their fire. She did house work as a young girl and she often worked more than a week for enough calico to make a dress.

For a short time she attended night school and here met Attewall whom she later married. Cynthia was tall and straight with black hair and snappy brown eyes. After their first child was born, they moved to Midway and remained there until their death.

Cynthia gave birth to 11 children, eight sons and three daughters. One daughter and one son died the same day as their birth.

Cynthia was a model housekeeper and cook, yet she found time for her church. She served as President of the Relief Society for many years and helped the sisters in gleaning wheat and storing it in a small granary across the street from the Wootton home. Many times she left her own family when smallpox and diphtheria hit, to help her neighbors in caring for the sick. Night or day, her children could bring their friends home and they were always welcome. Her husband brought many of the state's leading educators to their home. Never was she unprepared to receive them.

She died in Salt Lake City.

Children of Attewall and Cynthia Jewett Wootton:

Attewall Jr., married Elizabeth Ohlweiler  
John Alma, married Martha Melvina Huf-faker

George Alfred, married Dora Bond, later Kathryn Yergensen

William Theodore, married Carolina Alexander

Cynthia Ann, married Edward Jaspersen  
Edward, married Ida Bonner, later Nina Rose

Richard Harmon, married Orpha Fraugh-ton, later Irene Nichol

David Alvah, married Mary Jane Aplan-alp

Florence Sophia, married Donald Willis Charles, died in infancy.



1798-1800